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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Kenji KANEKO et al.

Mailstop Issue Fee
Group Art Unit: 2878

Appln. No : 09/938,663 ✓

Examiner: Seung SOHN
Confirmation No.: 2500

Filed : August 27, 2001

For : A SURVEYING INSTRUMENT HAVING AN OPTICAL DISTANCE
METER AND AN AUTOFOCUS SYSTEM, AND A SURVEYING
INSTRUMENT HAVING A DETACHABLE AUTOFOCUS SYSTEM

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Notice of Allowability, mailed by the Patent and Trademark Office on January 2, 2004 and to the Statement of Reasons for Allowance attached thereto, Applicants wish to clarify the record with respect to the basis for the patentability of claims in the present application. In this regard, while Applicants do not disagree with the Examiner's indication that certain identified features are not disclosed by the references, Applicants submit that each of the claims in the present application recite a particular combination of features, and that the basis for patentability of each of these

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claims is based on the totality of the particular features recited therein.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned
at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Kenji KANEKO et al.

Will & Lyndal Reg. No.

Bruce H. Bernstein 41,568
Reg. No. 29,027

March 15, 2004
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191